

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

PRAYING

The cession of certain public lands, to aid in the construction of the Gulf and Ship Island railroad.

MARCH 27, 1860.—Read, referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

A MEMORIAL of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States, praying the cession of certain public lands, to aid in the construction of the Gulf and Ship Island railroad.

Whereas, the building of the Gulf and Ship Island railroad is an enterprise of great importance to the interest and prosperity of the State of Mississippi, and important to the agricultural and commercial development of the western States and northwestern territory, connecting, as it will, with lines of railroad that run through the most fertile and productive lands in the world, and designed to build up at its southern terminus a commercial city on the seaboard, which will have the advantage of one of the first harbors in the gulf or upon the Atlantic coast; and whereas federal government is interested in having the means for a speedy transit in time of war to this otherwise almost defenseless coast; and whereas the lands in the southern portion of Mississippi, through which this road is designed to run, are valueless without the success of this enterprise, being available for lumber or the production of turpentine alone, which, to be profitable, must have cheap and speedy transportation: Therefore,

Resolved by the legislature of the State of Mississippi, That our senators in Congress be instructed and our representatives be required, to use their best exertions to procure the passage of an act by the Congress of the United States, donating, in addition to what it has already granted, five hundred thousand acres of land, to be held in trust by the State of Mississippi, for the completion of said Gulf and Ship Island railroad; or for so much land, in addition to the present grant, as Congress in its wisdom may be willing to donate.

Resolved, That should Congress refuse to make an additional grant of lands for said work, that our senators be instructed and our repre-

representatives required, to procure for the State of Mississippi, if possible, the privilege of entering, at the minimum price, all the public lands lying within — miles on both sides of the air line connecting its southern with its northern terminus.

Resolved further, That the governor be instructed to furnish our renators and representatives, each, with a copy of the foregoing memorial and resolutions.

Approved, February 10, 1860.

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

SENATE.

The Senate of the State of Mississippi, in session at the Capitol at Jackson, Mississippi, on the 10th day of February, 1860, do hereby resolve, That the governor be instructed to furnish our renators and representatives, each, with a copy of the foregoing memorial and resolutions.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Senate at Jackson, Mississippi, this 10th day of February, 1860.

A MEMORIAL of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States, praying the grant of certain public lands, to aid in the construction of the Gulf and Ship Island railroad.

Whereas, the building of the Gulf and Ship Island railroad is an enterprise of great importance to the interest and prosperity of the State of Mississippi, and important to the agricultural and commercial development of the western States and northwestern Territory, as it will, with lines as railroad lines, and through the most fertile and productive lands in the world, and designed to hold up at its southern terminus a commercial city on the seaboard, which will have the advantage of one of the best harbors in the Gulf, or upon the Atlantic coast, and which Federal Government is interested in having the means for a speedy transit in time of war to four military arsenals, and which, and which the lands in the western portion of Mississippi, through which this road is designed to run, are valuable within the limits of this territory, being available for the purpose of the production of agricultural crops, which is profitable, and have been and are being improved.

And whereas, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, in its session in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be authorized, to use such best efforts to procure the passage of an act by the Congress of the United States, whereby in addition to what it has already granted, the United States would be held in trust for the State of Mississippi, for the construction of said Gulf and Ship Island railroad; or for as much land in addition to the present grant, as Congress in its wisdom may be willing to donate.

Resolved, That should Congress refuse to make an additional grant of lands for said work, that the same be withdrawn and our representatives be instructed to procure the passage of an act by the Congress of the United States, whereby in addition to what it has already granted, the United States would be held in trust for the State of Mississippi, for the construction of said Gulf and Ship Island railroad; or for as much land in addition to the present grant, as Congress in its wisdom may be willing to donate.